



St. Mark's  
Lutheran Church

# The Messenger

715 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, Grand Forks, ND | [www.stmarksqf.org](http://www.stmarksqf.org) | 701-772-4807  
"A Heritage of God's Grace" Since 1910

## September 2019



Rally Sunday is September 8<sup>th</sup>.  
This is the first day of the new Sunday School term.


3<sup>rd</sup> grade students will receive their Bibles  
during the 9:30 worship.

See you there!

Rally Sunday!



Pastor Dale is on vacation through August 28<sup>th</sup>. Look for a message from him in next month's Messenger.



## **Installation**

Pastor Dale Raatz will be installed as our Synodically Authorized Minister (SAM) during worship on September 1<sup>st</sup>.



### **Elevator Update from the Council President**

Greetings.

I want to provide an update regarding the elevator at St. Mark's.

As you know the elevator is out of service. The church council has been working diligently for months for repair solutions. We have contacted two elevator service companies. One did not communicate back to us and the other, Otis Elevator Co., has been active in finding a solution for us. The council then indicated to Otis that we wanted to proceed further with their service and repair options.

Unfortunately, there are too many issues with the doors and no room for safety scanners. They will not be able to repair the lift we have now. The next option would be to replace the lift with a 2,500-pound elevator, their smallest elevator size. A new elevator would require that we also build a machine room and a hoistway in which they have provided plans for. We would also need 3 phase power for this. They provided a budgetary number of \$90,000. This bid does not include contracting out the build of a machine room, installing the hoistway, or all of the electrical work. So we can only guess we will be well over \$100,000 at this point as we don't have an estimate for the additional requirements.

We have checked into a chair lift for the steps, but they are too narrow. The council will diligently continue to seek the best options for St. Mark's.

We apologize for the further delays. Please ask for assistance if needed to get up and down the stairs safely at this point. Feel free to contact me if you have any further questions or suggestions.

Blessings

Jeanette Gratton, Council President

## **Synod Endowment Sunday – September 29<sup>th</sup>**

The Eastern North Dakota Synod Endowment Fund to sustain rural ministry and enhance quality pastoral leadership is intended to help sustain vital, viable ministry in Eastern North Dakota for years to come. The Synod Council authorized the establishment of the Fund, and the initial resolution was overwhelmingly passed by the Eastern North Dakota Synod Assembly on March 25, 2000. Since then, **Synod Endowment Sundays have been held in the fall of each year.**

### **Your gift to the Synod Endowment Fund will support:**

- Scholarship aid for seminarians
- Pastors' student loan debt repayment
- Pastors' pension equity contributions
- Rural internship assistance
- Leadership development

A special envelope will be included in the bulletin **September 29<sup>th</sup>** for your donations. You can also send donations to the church office with a notation in the memo specifying "Synod Endowment". Thank you!

Your participation in the Synod Endowment Fund is encouraged to sustain rural ministry and enhance quality pastoral leadership



### **Parents of Loss Support Group**

The Parents of Loss grief group is having a **Remembrance Walk and Balloon Release** on Wednesday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 PM.

The starting point is the Angel of Hope at Altru Hospital (east side).

An opening program will be given there and continue to walk to Sertoma Park just west of Altru Hospital. Balloons will be released at Sertoma Park. Family and friends are invited to attend.

**(Please bring your own balloons!)**



**Monday Bible Study will resume in September. Sessions are offered each week at 9:30 a.m. and again at 6:30 p.m. No registration is needed.**



Save  
THE  
Date

## Property Committee Fundraiser

Our Fall Fundraiser supper for property improvements will be held on Wednesday, October 9<sup>th</sup>. Please mark your calendars!

Watch your October newsletters for more details.



Thank You

Thank you to these ladies who serve as coffee coordinators for most of the year. They are responsible for making sure that there are coffee servers so we are able to enjoy some coffee and fellowship time following worship every Sunday. Please don't forget to sign up to volunteer to serve. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex. This will make their duties just a little easier.

September – Roselynn Urness  
October – Eleanor Foss  
November – Jane Rodacker  
December – Amy Christianson  
January – Marilee LaMont  
February – Kathy Mutcher  
March – Ann Henderson  
& Sandra Robinson  
April – Linda Simmons  
May – Olive Weber



 WE WILL BE  
**CLOSED**  
LABOR DAY

Everyone have a safe and relaxing  
Labor Day Weekend.

# Education News

## Neighborhood Block Party

The Block Party was cancelled due to weather. Thank you to all those who offered to volunteer. The food (which was purchased with a Thrivent gift card) has been donated to the Boy Scout Honors picnic and the Northland's Rescue Mission.

## Bible Campers!

Navy and Oakley Oss, Gabe Keeley and Andrew Ebertowski attended Bible camp this year. Thank you to Abiding Memorials and WELCA for assisting with Bible Camp costs. This was a wonderful experience for our St. Mark's kids!

## Save the Date: Rally Sunday Sept 8th.

3rd graders will be presented Bibles during the Church service. Education will be serving treats for coffee hour.

After coffee hour, the congregation is invited to help the Sunday School kids pack Red River Community Action Gift Bags. This will be our first day of Sunday School



## Shampoo: Donations needed for Red River Community Action gift bags

During September, there will be a box in the Narthex for shampoo donations. \$1 shampoo can be purchased at Dollar Tree stores. In early October, St. Mark's will donate 100 gift bags to the non-profit agency Red River Community Action. These bags are distributed to their clients who are seeking assistance for basic needs. Each bag contains a pair of gloves/mittens, hat and many toiletry items. 50 bags are for adults and 50 bags are for children. Thank you to Abiding Memorials and to Thrivent for donating funds to this project.

After coffee hour on Sept. 8th (Rally Sunday), please join the Sunday School as they assemble the bags. At the end of September, the donated shampoo will be added to the bags



## Global Friends Picnic

**University Park - Sunday, Sept 22<sup>nd</sup> - 5-7 pm**

This event gives the Greater Grand Forks community an opportunity to engage with New Americans. All are welcome. St. Mark's and Zion Methodist Education kids and the New American teens will help with the Carnival Games. There will be free ethnic food, hot dogs, games and music. Global Friends was very appreciative of St. Mark's participation at last year's event.





**Men's Breakfast** The Men's Group will meet for breakfast on Thursday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 a.m. at Grama Butterwicks. All men are invited to attend. No registration is required. This is an informal group that meets the first Thursday of each month for food and conversation. You can still make it to work by 8!

**Bethesda Society** meets Wednesday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 pm at Valley Senior Living on 42<sup>nd</sup>.

**Council** will meet Tuesday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in the office conference room.

**J.O.Y.** The J.O.Y. group will meet on Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, at 11:30 a.m. Following lunch, a program will be presented. Watch your bulletins for more information on that program. There will be a sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex.



The deadline for information for the October Newsletter is September 25<sup>th</sup>.



**She is back!! Callie Stadem is off maternity leave and will be providing special music with us again on a monthly basis. Callie is scheduled to be here September 8<sup>th</sup>! Plan to come early to enjoy her beautiful prelude. (She hints that we may be able to meet the newest member of their family, Elaine.)**



With Heartfelt  
*Sympathy*

Our Sympathies to the family and friends of our member, **Ray Mutcher**, as they mourn his death. Ray passed on August 25<sup>th</sup>. Services are pending. God Bless His Memory.



## **Valley Memorial Homes is now Valley Senior Living.**

Valley Senior Living includes three campuses in Grand Forks serving about 550 people each day.

With this name change, they are linking their name to their communities:

**Valley Senior Living on Columbia** – Formerly known as Valley Eldercare Center, this nursing home is physically connected to Altru.

**Valley Senior Living on 42<sup>nd</sup>** – Formerly known as 4000 Valley Square. The building names on the campus continue to be Woodside Village (nursing home), Wheatland Terrace (assisted living) and Country Estates (independent living).

**Valley Senior Living on Cherry** – This community includes Tuffe Manor (basic care facility) and Cherrywood Village (independent living).



### **Highlights from the August Council Meeting**

- ✓ The contract has been signed by Pastor Dale and he will be our Synodically Authorized Minister (SAM) through June 30, 2020.
- ✓ The Fall Property Fundraiser Supper has been scheduled for Wednesday, October 9<sup>th</sup>.
- ✓ The Block Party will be held August 15<sup>th</sup>. Zion Methodist is partnering with us again this year.
- ✓ Conversations are continuing with the Rural Parish. These are conversations and no decisions have been made.
- ✓ Costs for the elevator repairs/replacements have come through much higher than had previously been discussed. More information will be supplied to the congregation.

#### **ST MARK'S FINANCIAL REPORT - 01/01/19 through 07/31/19**

BUDGETED GIVING:	\$ 70,642.00
07/31/19 YTD GIVING	\$ 74,407.00
(2018 YTD Giving \$ 68,076.00)	
07/31/19 YTD General Fund Income	\$ 106,198.00
07/31/19 YTD General Fund Expenses	\$ 98,486.00
<b>YTD GENERAL FUND <u>Difference</u></b>	<b>\$ 7,712.00</b>

**Dine to Donate Program** St. Mark's has become part of Texas Roadhouse's "Dine to Donate Program". The program is easy. Texas Roadhouse will donate 10% of food purchases to any Sunday diner who gives them a St. Mark's bulletin from that day. This program is for all Sundays, with the exception of holidays. Every quarter, they will issue St. Mark's a check for 10% of those sales. So, grab your bulletin and head over to Texas Roadhouse! Thank you!



## September Birthdays and Anniversaries...

### Birthdays:

- 1 Ashley Helmoski
- 3 Jane Humble
- 4 Sydney Grenier
- 5 Andrew Eyre
- 9 Angus Eyre
- 14 Garlynn Helmoski
- 19 Michele Peterson
- 20 Kristen Rundquist  
Linda Simmons
- 21 Gabe Keeley
- 22 Kensie Hubbard
- 26 Audrey Glick
- 29 Steven Metcalf

### Anniversaries:

- 5 Jerry & Mary Dawn Berge
- 10 Michael & Kimberly Moon
- 17 Iver & Sandra Buchmann
- 19 David & Emily Combs
- 27 Erik & Mary Tingberg

(Please contact the church office if you have additions or corrections to this listing.)







**President**  
**Vice President**  
**Secretary**  
**Treasurer**

Jeanette Gratton  
Iver Buchmann  
Michele Peterson  
Ann Henderson

Donna Hubbard  
Jane Humble  
Marsha Oss  
Miles Rodacker  
Art Ruud

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**Office Hours:** Sunday 8-12  
Monday-Thursday 8:30-3:00

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and look for our logo!



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.




**All 4 Learning  
Childcare Center**



**Eastern North Dakota Synod**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

# September 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Dale's Installation 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee & Fellowship	2 WE WILL BE CLOSED LABOR DAY	3 Roy Mutchler Funeral in a.m.	4 9-Noon Quilting	5 Tam Men's Breakfast	6	7
8 Rally Sunday! 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee 10:40 Education	9 Dale @ Fall Theological Conference 7:00 Scouts	10 6:30 Council Dale @ Fall Theological Conference	11 9-Noon Quilting 2:00 Bethesda 6:00 Parents of Loss Balloon Release	12	13	14
15 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee 10:40 Education	16 9:30 & 6:30 Bible Study 7:00 Scouts	17	18 9-Noon Quilting 11:30 J.O.Y.	19	20	21
22 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee 10:40 Education	23 9:30 & 6:30 Bible Study 7:00 Scouts	24	25 9-Noon Quilting 	26	27	28
29 SYNOD ENDOWMENT SUNDAY 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee 10:40 Education	30 9:30 & 6:30 Bible Study 7:00 Scouts					